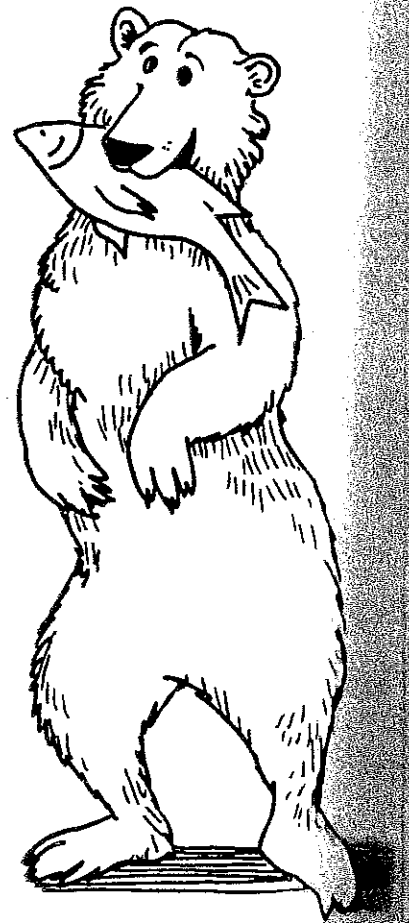


RELATIONSHIPS IN THE ECOSYSTEM

It may look as if this bear is simply eating this fish. But it is far from simple. These two animals are in a relationship! Not a very comfortable one for the fish, of course, but an important one in the ecosystem nonetheless!

Use one of the terms at the bottom of the page to label each example described.

1. Vultures gather around a dead deer. _____
2. Camels, cacti, sagebrush, lizards, snakes, and insects all live together in a section of desert. _____
3. A tick feeds on your dog. _____
4. Beetles and termites want to break down the dead material in the same spot on the same dead tree. _____
5. Mice feed on acorns; owls feed on mice. _____
6. A pond frog catches a nice fly on his sticky tongue. _____
7. The dandelions seem to be taking over your lawn. _____
8. Mule deer live in the forest behind my house. _____
9. A bacteria causes your throat to be sore. _____
10. An orchid attaches itself to a tree branch without doing the tree any harm. _____
11. A poisonous sea anemone gives protection to a fish, but feeds on the predators that come after it. _____
12. A mountain lion stalks a young deer. _____
13. A fungus grows on a rotting log. _____
14. Ants crawl all over a dead worm. _____
15. Some bacteria live and get their nourishment inside your intestines, and help to keep them healthy. _____
16. Weeds choke out the young corn plants in your garden. _____
17. A spider traps a fat fly in her web. _____



commensalism
scavengers
community
competition
food chain
mutualism
population
predator-prey
dominant species
decomposer
parasitism
scavenger

Name _____